



# NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE **BRUCE McPHERSON**

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## **Absentee and Early Voting for June 6<sup>th</sup> Primary Election Begins Today**

*Voters Can Request, Receive and Return Absentee Ballots Starting Today; Applications Are Available Online [http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_m.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm)*

SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that California voters who want to vote by absentee ballot for the June 6<sup>th</sup> Primary Election can begin requesting a ballot and voting. McPherson informed voters that a downloadable absentee ballot application is available online in seven different languages at [http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections\\_m.htm](http://www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections_m.htm) or can be found on the back of the sample ballot mailed to each voter by their county elections official.

"I want to make voting as simple and convenient as possible because California families lead such busy lives with work and school," said McPherson. "It has never been easier for eligible registrants to vote by mail. Any registered voter may apply and vote by absentee ballot if their application is received between today and May 30<sup>th</sup>."

Absentee voting has increased in popularity since restrictions limiting who could vote an absentee ballot were removed and legislation was passed to allow any registered voter to apply for permanent absentee voting status. In the November 8, 2005 Special Statewide Election, 3.3 million voters cast their votes with absentee ballots. Just five years prior, in November of 2000, some 281,000 voters cast absentee ballots.

Secretary McPherson stressed that completed absentee ballots must be delivered to either a polling place in the voter's county or the voter's county elections office before the polls close at 8 pm on Election Day, June 6<sup>th</sup>, and that all legally cast absentee ballots in the custody of election officials by the close of polls on election night are counted and are reflected in the official vote totals. Some will not be counted during the semi-final official canvass election night because they will still need to go through verification of eligibility before being processed.

Registrants who are not already enrolled as permanent absent voters and who wish to cast an absentee ballot in the primary must either complete an absentee ballot application or send a letter to their county registrar of voters requesting one. The letter must include the voter's name as registered, the address to which the absentee ballot should be sent if different than the registered voter's address, the name and date of the election for which the voter wants the absentee ballot, and the voter's signature.

McPherson also noted that special absentee ballot applications for military and overseas voters were accepted beginning April 7, 2006.